figure. A month later he was dead. Five years before, when Lord Irwin's appointment to the Viceroyalty was decided on, he had noted down bitterly: 'How much more profitable is virtue than brilliance.[1] The subsequent career of the man who provoked this observation, has certainly not lessened its validity.

Gandhi's arrival in London for the second session of the Round-Table Conference created less stir than load been anticipated. Partly it was that his goat's milk and shawl and weekly day of silence had been over-publicised, partly that by the time he arrived the National Government had been formed, and the maintenance of the Gold Standard, rather than an All-India Federal Constitution, was preoccupying most minds.[18] He stayed in an East End Settlement, his hostess being Miss Muriel Lester, and spent much of his time at Friends' House, where he was to be seen most afternoons, the centre of a little circle of admiring Quakers, who occasionally gently questioned him. Two policemen were told off to follow him about, and as he was in the habit of taking a stroll at dawn, their day began early. The three of them—the aged, wizened Indian in unseasonable loin-cloth and shawl; the two friendly but unmistakable policemen keeping some little distance behind him—were a strange sight walking through empty East End streets at cold daybreak.

Another visitor in London, but differently clad and accommodated, was Charlie Chaplin, who had come to attend the opening night of *City Lights.* The two met, and were photographed together, Mahatma and Clown, both past their prime,

and a little forlorn. Charlie's visit also had not come up to expectations. It had started well enough, with cheering crowds, and even a suggestion in several newspapers that the conferment of a knighthood on him would be a graceful and popular gesture. Then reports were circulated that he was careless about keeping appointments—for instance, one at 10, Downing Street for lunch with the Prime Minister: and the *Morning Post* unkindly recalled the fact that, though a British subject and of military age at the

[18] The Gold Standard was abandoned a week after Gandhi's arrival in London.